THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Parity of PIO card holders with NRIs in this sector is still under consideration of the Ministries concerned.

Investment policy with regard to NRIs and PIOs

430. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government with regard to investments by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) in domestic aviation sector;

(b) whether the policy decision has the approval of Group of Ministers/ Cabinet;

(c) what would be the benefits to NRIs and PIOs as far as their FDI in domestic air transport service is concerned after the promulgation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Ordinance, 2005;

(d) whether investment of PIOs will henceforth be treated at par with NRIs in domestic air transport service; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) NRIs are allowed to invest upto 100% in domestic airlines, under the automatic route. This facility has not been extended to PIOs.

(b) No.

(c) The benefits that Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) will be entitled to be notified by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs by virtue of the amendment to Citizenship Act under section 7B of the said Act. Among the benefits OCIs will be entitled to be treated at par with NRIs in educational, cultural and economic areas.

(d)No.

(e) Parity of PIO card holders with NRIs in this sector is still under. consideration of the Ministries.concerned.

Amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955

431. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
; SHRIMATI. PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to .'state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 to grant dual citizenship to Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and have issued ordinance in this regard;

(b) whether by this amendment PIOs would be eligible to become citizen of India;

(c) whether PIOs are now to be treated at par with NRIs as far as their investments in various sectors like aviation, including domestic airlines are concerned;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) what other facilities are being extended to PIOs and women married to them;

(f) whether Government are actively considering setting up universities for the higher education of Indian diaspora; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSIEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, subject to eligibility and subject to certain conditions and restrictions.

(c)No.

(d)Question does not arise.

(e)Spouses of PIO card holders can also apply for PIO card and can enjoy the same benefits as PIOs.

(f) Yes.